

THE TIMES.

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THE TIMES COMPANY,
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1890.

ANDERSONVILLE.

It has always been well known to the people of the South, and to every person of impartial mind at the North who has taken the trouble to examine the evidence bearing on the treatment of Federal prisoners held by the Confederate authorities during the late civil war, that the prisoners had to endure were not only a cruel and deliberate infliction, but simply to the inability to furnish the necessary medical and physical accommodations. According to certain articles which have recently appeared in the Century, dilating on the horrors of Andersonville, it would be supposed that all that the Federal prisoners had to pass through in that scene of misery was to be attributed entirely to the unmitigated cruelty of the Confederates who had the supervision of the prisoners in charge.

These articles are written in a political spirit, while exaggerating the frightful experiences of the Union prisoners, does not credit either the cause or the commandant at Andersonville with a single instinct of humanity. On the contrary, it would appear from the description of the Century writer as if these men had taken a fabled pleasure in heightening the unhappy condition of the prisoners.

This general charge has often been refuted, and refuted so thoroughly that it would never have been revived. The famous reply of Hill to the attack of Blaine, in the amnesty debate of 1876, was sufficient in itself to dispose of all adverse criticism of the conduct of the Confederate government in connection with Andersonville, as well as of the other military prisons in the South. If any supplement to that memorable reply were needed, it will be found in the interview of Dr. Isaiah H. White, of this city, with a representative of THE TIMES, and reported in our issue of yesterday. Dr. White was the chief surgeon of military prisoners cast of the Mississippi, and for a time was stationed at Andersonville, which is the prison which plays the most prominent part in the story of the writer for the Century.

In his very full and interesting statement Dr. White confirms, in the clearest and most convincing manner, the truth of the statement which has so often been repeated of the gross charges of indifference on the part of the Confederate government to the sufferings of the prisoners who had fallen into its hands for safe-keeping. He shows that these sufferings were beyond its power to relieve on account of existing circumstances, which it could not control, such as an inability to purchase the necessary medicines, or to secure a sufficient supply of wholesome food. It is to be hoped that Dr. White's statement will be copied very widely in the Northern States, for it is calculated to modify the opinion which so many persons in that section entertain of the treatment of Federal prisoners during the war.

HARRISON AND BLAINE.

The position now occupied by Mr. Harrison with reference to Mr. Blaine is one which has well calculated to mortify a man who has shown himself on more than one occasion to be both energetic and sensitive. In the past, the President can bear no rival near the throne, and yet, during the whole of his term so far, he has been compelled to stand in the shadow of a politician who is universally admitted to be the leader of his party today, and who can point to great political services performed long before Mr. Harrison had reached distinction, even in the borders of his native State. Blaine was asked to become a member of the Administration, not because Harrison was anxious to have the assistance of the most capable advisers, but because he represented a segment, and the most important segment, of the Republican party, whose wishes as to his appointment could not be overlooked.

From the hour that Mr. Blaine entered the Cabinet, he has been a political Tartar to the President. To offend him and drive him from office, was to arouse the indignation and hostility of an enormous mass of Republican voters upon whose good-will Harrison is dependent for a re-nomination. This, therefore, was not to be thought of. On the other hand, to follow Mr. Blaine's lead was to place the President in a position that would make a very unfavorable impression upon the party so far as his own individuality was concerned. Mr. Harrison has evidently given his unpleasant situation the most careful consideration. He is fully determined not to have a rupture with Mr. Blaine; at the same time, he is wavering still as to whether he shall follow the course which the Secretary of State has laid down for him. The prediction may be ventured that he will finally endorse the policy which Mr. Blaine has mapped out with respect to our commercial relations with the South and Central American republics. He will do so with reluctance and misgiving; but he will do so, for the support of Blaine is absolutely necessary to the realization of his aspiration after a re-nomination.

One of the most absorbing ambitions of the President is to secure his own re-nomination, and to gratify this ambition he is prepared to go very far with so powerful a factor in the Presidential situation as Mr. Blaine. Let him, however, beware, for he is treading upon the most dangerous ground. To adopt Mr. Blaine's ideas as to reciprocity treaties is to offend a very large section of the Republican party, who look to McKinley as their exponent. To decline to adopt Mr. Blaine's ideas is to excite the opposition, not only of the immediate followers of the Secretary of State, but of the great body of the Western farmers. The President must be a shrewd politician than he has yet shown himself to be if he can steer safely through all the quicksands which now surround him. There is a growing probability that he will go to wreck, while a stronger man, perhaps Blaine himself, will secure the prize for which Mr. Harrison longs so keenly.

DUTY ON IRON ORES.

One of the most interesting debates that has taken place in the Senate since the items of the McKinley Tariff bill have been under discussion, came off on Wednesday, on which occasion Mr. Gorman of Massachusetts, and Mr. Dabney of Kansas, were warmly in favor of the reduction proposed by the Maryland Senator. Mr. Dabney, who was on each side of the iron ore, which Mr. Plumb advocated a reduction of fifteen cents, most probably because he thought the Senate would be more willing to adopt a modified suggestion of this character than the reduction demanded by his two brother Senators.

The Senator from Massachusetts admitted that there had been a very marked change of sentiment in New England with reference both to free coal and free iron, and the disposition among its manufacturers to relieve these materials either wholly or partially of the existing duties was rapidly growing more decided. The Kansas Senator, on the other hand, advocated the reduction on the general ground that popular opinion demanded a cut in the tariff rates, and an increase of all the duties had been fixed by the terms of the McKinley bill, and in his opposition to the proposed tax on ores he was simply acting consistently with the general principle which he is applying to nearly all the items of that measure.

When the question of reducing the tax on iron ore was put to a vote, not only did Mr. Dabney range himself on the side of Mr. Plumb and the Democrats, but his example was followed by Senators Ingalls of Kansas and Paddock of Nebraska, two men who are now busily engaged in studying that change of sentiment on many popular questions which is so rapidly developing in the Western States.

Nowhere has the opposition to the Force bill been expressed in stronger terms than in the platform of the Democratic convention on Wednesday, declares "a menace to the freedom and purity of our elections; it places the Treasury of the United States at the disposal of the party in power; it enables the managers of that party to employ as large a force as it deems necessary to carry on the work of its campaign, and to do this under the pretense of responsibility of the Government to the people by vesting its enormous powers in the hands of holders of appointments for life. We believe that the people of the various localities can be safely trusted to conduct their own elections, and that the power of Congress to determine the qualification, election, and return of its members is sufficient for protection against local abuses."

In the brief compass of a few lines, the Iowa Convention has stated the whole ground of opposition to the Lodge bill. Its objectionable features were never more succinctly or more graphically presented.

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BUENA VISTA, VA.

The Growing Manufacturing Town of the Virginia Valley.

Situated in a Rockbridge county, 187 miles from Richmond, 30 miles from Lynchburg and 9 miles from Lexington, on the spur of the Blue Ridge, it is connected with the principal centers of the county by the Chesapeake and Ohio, Baltimore and Ohio and Shenandoah Valley Railroads, and enjoys a delightful climate and splendid water, besides boundless quantities of iron ore, manganese and other valuable minerals and clays.

Superior Iron Ores, Manganese and Other Valuable Minerals and Clays.

A COMMODIOUS AND WELL-MANAGED HOTEL

IS ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The town now has a population of 1